THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details relating to the establishment of this body including its composition, functions, etc., have not yet been finalised.

Stopping of translation programme by ICHR

1444. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided in September 1978 that the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) should stop the translation programme to save expenditure;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite such a decision the translation programme continues and the ICHR still intends to undertake 23 titles under the continuing translation programme; and

(c) whether in view of Prime Minister's call to save avoidable expenditure this programme is proposed to be stopped; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) Under the Programme of Translation of Text Books or reference literature in History for Higher Education for translation into 12 Indian languages, 86 titles were selected by the Indian Council of Historical Research. 340 translated manuscripts were prepared in different languages, out of which 41 were published till September, 1978. The scheme was reviewed by the Government in September, 1978 and it was decided that Indian Council of Historical Research should not proceed further with translation of pending titles and the translated manuscripts should be got published through private publishers, Granth Academies, Text Book Boards etc., as it was felt that the Council was not expected to be an agency for translation of books. 63 books have been published and action for the publication of the rest of the manuscripts is in progress. Since September, 1978 the Council has not undertaken translation of any new title under the said programme.

Purchases made by ICHR

1445. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), a small organisation, at the fag end of financial year purchased six electronic typewriters, one word-processor, two air-conditioners and a plain paper copier, in addition to the two plain paper copiers already with it, and other items like sofa-sets, de-luxe tables, curtains and other furniture items; if so, what were the details of the cost and the necessity thereof;

(b) whether these purchases were made in a haste that most of the items were actually supplied after the financial year was over even after the cheques for payment had been issued; and

(c) whether the Prime Minister's directive for economising in Government expenditure was kept in view in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) According to the Information furnished by the Indian